

(2) current NASA communications do not allow for real-time data collection, observation, or transmission of information.

(b) **STUDY.**—The Administrator shall conduct a study on the feasibility, impact, and cost of using commercial communications programs services for suborbital flight programs and low-Earth orbit research.

(c) **REPORT.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to Congress and make publicly available a report that describes the results of the study conducted under subsection (b).

#### MAKING FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.J. Res. 107.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the joint resolution by title for the information of the Senate.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 107) making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2021, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the measure?

Mr. SANDERS. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, last week I indicated that it would be unacceptable for the Senate to recess for the Christmas holidays without providing substantial direct payments to the working families of our country and to their children.

Majority Leader McConnell and I do not agree on much, but as I understand it, we are in agreement on at least one point, and that is that the Senate cannot go home until the COVID emergency relief bill is passed. The fact that the majority leader intends to keep the Senate in session this weekend to continue work on the COVID relief package is the correct decision.

But let me, at this time, be as clear as I can be. Senator JOSH HAWLEY, a Republican from Missouri, and I have been working together to make certain that the working families of this country have a direct payment of \$1,200 for adults and \$2,400 for couples and \$500 for each of their children. Let me also be absolutely clear that I will object to any attempt by the Senate to pass an omnibus appropriations bill and leave town before passing a COVID relief bill with substantial direct payments going to working people.

The truth is that the working families of this country today are probably in a worse economic condition than at any time since the Great Depression. Millions of people are unable to pay their rent, and they are worried about being evicted. Hunger is, literally, at the highest level that it has been in

several decades. And in the midst of this terrible, terrible pandemic, we have tens of millions of people who cannot afford to go to a doctor. That is unacceptable.

I would say to my colleagues, let's get this package passed. Let's make certain that we have direct payments to working families of this country, and with that I would withdraw my objection.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the joint resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The joint resolution was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the joint resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate on the joint resolution, the joint resolution having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the joint resolution pass?

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 107) was passed.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—TRIBUTE TO RETIRING MEMBERS OF THE 116TH CONGRESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be printed as a Senate document a compilation of materials from the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in tribute to retiring Members of the 116th Congress and that Members have until Monday, December 21, to submit such tributes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BARRASSO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, as in executive session, with respect to the Somers nomination, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### SIGNING AUTHORITY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the majority leader and the junior Senator from North Carolina be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions on December 18 and 19, 2020.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### PROPER AND REIMBURSED CARE FOR NATIVE VETERANS ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 6237 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6237) to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to clarify the requirement of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense to reimburse the Indian Health Service for certain health care services.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 6237) was passed.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### AUTHORIZING THE SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA TO LEASE OR TRANSFER CERTAIN LAND

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 4079 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4079) to authorize the Seminole Tribe of Florida to lease or transfer certain land, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 4079) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 4079

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

# SECTION 1. APPROVAL NOT REQUIRED TO VALIDATE CERTAIN LAND TRANSACTIONS OF THE SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, without further approval, ratification, or authorization by the United States, the Seminole Tribe of Florida may lease, sell, convey, warrant, or otherwise transfer all or any part of the interest of the Seminole Tribe of Florida in any real property that is not held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

(b) TRUST LAND NOT AFFECTED.—Nothing in this section—

(1) authorizes the Seminole Tribe of Florida to lease, sell, convey, warrant, or otherwise transfer all or any part of an interest in any real property that is held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Seminole Tribe of Florida; or

(2) affects the operation of any law governing leasing, selling, conveying, warranting, or otherwise transferring any interest in any real property that is held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

## CARL NUNZIATO VA CLINIC

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 5023, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5023) to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Youngstown, Ohio, as the “Carl Nunziato VA Clinic”.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 5023) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

## MISSING PERSONS AND UNIDENTIFIED REMAINS ACT OF 2019

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask that the Chair lay before the Senate the House message to accompany S. 2174.

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

*Resolved*, That the bill from the Senate (S. 2174) entitled “An Act to expand the grants authorized under Jennifer’s Law and Kristen’s Act to include processing of unidentified remains, resolving missing persons cases, and for other purposes.”, do pass with amendments.

### MOTION TO CONCUR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to concur in the House amendment and I ask unanimous consent that the motion be agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to concur in the title amend-

ment, and I ask unanimous consent that the motion be agreed to; and that the motion to reconsider be made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## CORRECTING THE ENROLLMENT OF S. 3312

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask the Chair to lay before the Senate the House message to accompany S. Con. Res. 52.

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

*Resolved*, That the resolution from the Senate (S. Con. Res. 52) entitled “Concurrent resolution to correct the enrollment of S. 3312.”, do pass with an amendment.

### MOTION TO CONCUR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to concur in the House amendment and I ask unanimous consent that the motion be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## PROTECTING FIREFIGHTERS FROM ADVERSE SUBSTANCES ACT OF 2019

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 409, S. 2353.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2353) to direct the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to develop guidance for firefighters and other emergency response personnel on best practices to protect them from exposure to PFAS and to limit and prevent the release of PFAS into the environment, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 2353) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time and passed as follows:

### S. 2353

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Protecting Firefighters from Adverse Substances Act of 2019” or the “PFAS Act of 2019”.

#### SEC. 2. GUIDANCE ON HOW TO PREVENT EXPOSURE TO AND RELEASE OF PFAS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the

Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, in consultation with the Administrator of the United States Fire Administration, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Director of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and the heads of any other relevant agencies, shall—

(1) develop and publish guidance for firefighters and other emergency response personnel on training, education programs, and best practices to—

(A) reduce the exposure to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (commonly referred to as “PFAS”) from firefighting foam and personal protective equipment; and

(B) limit or prevent the release of PFAS from firefighting foam into the environment;

(2) develop and issue guidance to firefighters and other emergency response personnel on alternative foams, personal protective equipment, and other firefighting tools and equipment that do not contain PFAS; and

(3) create an online public repository, which shall be updated on a regular basis, on tools and best practices for firefighters and other emergency response personnel to reduce, limit, and prevent the release of and exposure to PFAS.

(b) REQUIRED CONSULTATION.—In developing the guidance required under subsection (a), the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall consult with appropriate interested entities, including—

(1) firefighters and other emergency response personnel, including national fire service and emergency response organizations;

(2) impacted communities dealing with PFAS contamination;

(3) scientists, including public and occupational health and safety experts, who are studying PFAS and PFAS alternatives in firefighting foam;

(4) voluntary standards organizations engaged in developing standards for firefighter and firefighting equipment;

(5) State fire training academies;

(6) State fire marshals;

(7) manufacturers of firefighting tools and equipment; and

(8) any other relevant entities, as determined by the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Administrator of the United States Fire Administration.

(c) REVIEW OF GUIDANCE.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which the guidance required under subsection (a) is issued, and not less frequently than once every 2 years thereafter, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, in consultation with the Administrator of the United States Fire Administration, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Director of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, shall review the guidance and, as appropriate, issue updates to the guidance.

(d) APPLICABILITY OF FACA.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to this Act.

## GAO DATABASE MODERNIZATION ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 591, S. 4222.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4222) to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to require Federal